

nation. Johnson had no concrete reason to dislike Morrissey; he only wanted to make Kennedy look bad and Morrissey's nomination presented him with the opportunity to do so.

Johnson and Hoover had their mutual fear and hatred of the Kennedys in common—and more. As neighbors in Washington since the days when Johnson was a senator from Texas, they had been frequent dinner guests in each other's homes. They remained close when Johnson served as vice-president, but there was a change in their relationship when LBJ became president. The director was over sixty-five by that time, past retirement age for federal employees, and he stayed in office only because of a special waiver which required the president's signature each year. That waiver put Hoover right in Johnson's pocket. With that leverage Johnson began to take advantage of Hoover, using the bureau as his personal investigative arm. His never-ending requests were usually political, and sometimes illegal. There was absolutely nothing Johnson wouldn't ask of the FBI, whether or not it fell within the bureau's jurisdiction. And Hoover hot-footed it to Johnson's demands. The few times he let LBJ down, it was simply because the bureau lacked the capacity.

Whenever the occasion arose, President Johnson would use the FBI against the press. As an example, on 15 March 1965, LBJ called the bureau and said he was damned disturbed about a story published by the *Washington Evening Star* saying that the president was going to appoint Kermit Gordon (then the director of the Bureau of Budget) to be secretary of the treasury. Johnson made it clear he was very displeased that this had been leaked to the press and said he was going to put a stop to it.

The president told us to "discreetly" find out who leaked the story. We said we'd do what he asked. He reminded the bureau that we had done this before for him and obviously we had good press contacts. What we did not tell President Johnson was that it was the FBI who had leaked the information to the *Star* in the first place. This was a calculated policy designed to get the press obligated to the FBI so that we could subsequently use them. What we did tell LBJ was that the FBI would not and could not leak any such information because

we did not know Mr. Gordon was under any consideration, a patent lie. We had had the tip early from one of our countless highly placed sources of information.

Hoover had chosen "Deke" DeLoach, a man who at times seemed to be Hoover's protégé and at other times seemed to be almost a son to the director, to act as FBI liaison to Johnson when he served in the Senate. DeLoach's relationship with Johnson continued into the White House where, much to Hoover's chagrin, DeLoach became a member of Johnson's inner circle. DeLoach and his family visited with the Johnsons at Camp David and at the LBJ Ranch, and eventually DeLoach obtained a direct line to LBJ's White House from his bedroom.

Because his advanced age put him in such a precarious position, Hoover literally turned the bureau and all its resources over to DeLoach and Johnson to use as they saw fit, and he found himself very much in the back seat, almost a captive of the president and his FBI liaison. He couldn't do a damned thing about it either, even if he had wanted to, which I doubt. All Hoover wanted was to stay on as director, to avoid retirement. Appearances were maintained, however, and Johnson, through DeLoach, treated Hoover with kid gloves and was always careful to see that the attorney general, Hoover's nominal boss, did the same.

For instance, early in 1965 DeLoach told Hoover that the president wanted Hoover to know in confidence that he had called both the attorney general and deputy attorney general into his office and had specifically instructed them that they were to get along with the director and the FBI. The president, DeLoach said, told the attorney general that the director's advice should be sought, particularly on future appointments in the department, and especially the assistant attorney generalship of the Criminal Division. The president had also instructed the attorney general to initiate luncheons or regular meetings to which he should invite Hoover. DeLoach told Hoover that Johnson was sure that Attorney General Katzenbach would not be around very long and that he hoped the FBI could put up with him for the time being.